

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application.

Reconsideration of the subject patent application and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, the Patent Office avers that the automatic storage and retrieval system is "not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and/or use the invention." For the following reasons, Applicants disagree.

The present invention relates to an automatic storage and retrieval system (AS/RS) used in an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. The ERP system incorporates the integration of a computer and network – allowing simultaneous control in real time to be achieved and the operational process to be simplified.¹ The ERP system is well known to those skilled in the art and, thus, the construction of the AS/RS used in the ERP system is also known to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the AS/RS comprising a database for storing storage bin data each including a material is also well known to those skilled in the art.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Patent Office contends that the segments "storage bin data each including a material" and "a corresponding storage bin" are indefinite. However, the "storage bin data each including a material" and "a corresponding storage bin" are constructed in the AS/RS used in the ERP system. As discussed above, the

¹ Specification at 1, ¶¶ 2 and 3.

ERP system is well known in the art. Thus, both segments are well known to those skilled in the art.

In addition, the Patent Office contends that the feature "displaying via the AS/RS" is indefinite. Claim 1, however, recites "displaying via the AS/RS a daily required material report in a browser of the user's computer device" Here, a daily required material report is displayed in a browser of the users' computer device via the AS/RS. Clearly, the claimed feature is definite.

The Patent Office further asserts that the segment "logged-in the AS/RS" is indefinite. Claim 11 recites, however, "a user is provided with an identification number for logged-in the AS/RS." Here, an identification number is given to a user for logging onto the system. If a user wants to operate the system, the user logs onto the system with the identification number. Indeed, the claimed feature is definite.

In view thereof, the present invention provides an automatic storage and retrieval system that displays a material request report after a user logs onto the system and selects the material on the browser of his/her computer device. Each segment, feature and term of claims 1 and 11 is defined in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Van Dyke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,412,070) ("Dyke"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully contend that the rejection is in error and should be withdrawn.

To anticipate a claim, a single prior art reference must disclose each and every feature of the claim.² The § 102 rejection is improper because the cited reference does not teach all of the features of the rejected claims.

² See Gechter v. Davidson, 116 F.3d. 1454, 1457 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

The present invention is directed to a method and system for operating an automatic storage and retrieval system. A user logs onto the system using an identification number. A daily request material report is displayed on a browser and a user selects a material therefrom. The system determines whether or not the user is authorized to handle the selected material by matching the user's identification number with data related to the selected material. If the user is not authorized, a message indicating such is sent to the user. Otherwise, the system obtains a corresponding storage bin for the selected material, and operates the obtained storage bin for storing and retrieving the selected material.

Independent claim 1 recites, inter alia, "displaying via the AS/RS a daily required material report in a browser of the user's computer device after a user logged-in the AS/RS through an identification number provided for the user." Independent claim 11 has a similar feature. Dyke fails to disclose, teach or suggest this feature.

Dyke relates to an extensible method and system for maintaining control access rights in a computing environment. A system administrator or user application dynamically creates unique control rights. In order to grant an access right to a trusted user, an improved access control entry (ACE) is defined. The ACE holds a unique identifier of the trusted user, and a unique identifier or the control access date structure.³

Dyke does not display a daily required material report after the user logs onto the system. Further, Dyke fails to disclose whether or not a user has the right to obtain selected material through the system.

Since Dyke fails to teach each and every limitation of claims 1 and 11, Dyke cannot anticipate these claims. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

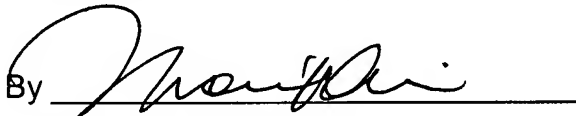
³ Dyke, col. 6, lines 25-67.

Appl. No. 10/072,924
Amendment dated June 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 22, 2005

Dependent claims 2-10 and 12-18 depend on at least one of independent claims 1 and 11 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 11, in addition to the additional features they recite.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Monica S. Davis
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,492
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.
Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 783-6040
Facsimile: (202) 783-6031

S:\Data\Clients\2769\2769-120.AMD2.wpd